

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS:ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: COCOA - SIXTH MEETING OF THE ICCO STATISTICS
-COMMITTEE

REF: 12/5/75, LONDON A-1026

1. GEORGE H. THIGPEN, FIRST SECRETARY OF EMBASSY IS DESIGNATED U.S. OBSERVER TO THE ICCO STATISTICAL MEETING.
2. THE USDEL SHOULD PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN DISCUSSIONS UNDER ITEM 4 IN ORDER TO REFINER THE ANALYSIS CARRIED OUT AS DOCUMENT STC/18. HE SHOULD INQUIRE ONCE MORE WHEN THE PORTION OF THE STUDY COVERING CONSUMPTION WILL BE READY, NOTING THE STUDY REMAINS INCOMPLETE AND ONLY PARTIALLY USEFUL UNTIL THE CONSUMPTION PORTION IS AVAILABLE. THE USDEL MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING AS APPROPRIATE IN THE DISCUSSION, BUT SHOULD NOT JOIN IN ANY CONTROVERSY OVER THE ANALYSIS.

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3. THE USDEL MAY COMPLIMENT THE ICCO SECRETARIAT ON THE

EXCELLENT DETAIL AND LENGTHY RESEARCH EFFORT PUT INTO THE DOCUMENT. GENERALLY SPEAKING THE REPORT IS A BIT OPTIMISTIC ON PRODUCTION PROSPECTS, GIVING THE ILLUSION THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING COCOA SURPLUS IN 1980 AND 1985. OTHER SOURCES DO NOT BEAR OUT SUCH CONCLUSIONS.

4. MORE SPECIFIC POINTS ARE:

- (A) MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON YIELDS IN NIGERIA IN WESTERN STATE ARE NECESSARY.

- (B) THE 500,000 TON ESTIMATE FOR THE IVORY COAST FOR 1985 APPEARS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. FURTHER RESEARCH SHOULD BE DONE ON THE IVORY COAST PROJECTIONS TO ASSURE ACCURACY SINCE IVORY COAST PRODUCTION INCREASES ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN WORLD EXPANSION.

- (C) ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST CALCULATIONS THE CAMEROON IS PAYING 22.89 U.S. CENTS PER POUND FOR COCOA BEANS. HAS THERE ACTUALLY BEEN A DECLINE IN THE PRICE PAID SINCE THE TABLE ON PAGE 51 WAS CONSTRUCTED?

- (D) MEXICO IS CURRENTLY PAYING 50.9 U.S. CENTS PER POUND TO PRODUCERS. COULD THIS HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING MEXICAN OUTPUT BEYOND THE PROJECTIONS IN THE STUDY?

- (E) THE SECRETARIAT MIGHT TRY TO QUANTIFY THE EFFECTS OF SUBSTITUTES ON PAGE 69.

- (F) THE METHODOLOGY USED IN ESTIMATING DEMAND PUTS SIGNIFICANT VALUES ON INCOME ELASTICITIES. BERMAN, IN HIS EQUATIONS FOR DEVELOPED MIXED ECONOMIES, INDICATES NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INCREASES IN INCOME AND CONSUMPTION. SUGGEST ICCO SECRETARIAT RUN THE DEMAND ANALYSIS THROUGH THEIR COMPUTER AGAIN LEAVING OUT THE INCOME GROWTH VARIABLE. CHANGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN DEVELOPED IMPORTING COUNTRIES COULD FURTHER REDUCE INCOME GROWTH POSSIBILITIES.

5. A COMPLETE TABLE ON IBRD FINANCED COCOA PROJECTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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BOTH APPROVED AND PENDING SHOULD BE ADDED.

6. EXPANSION OF THE SECTION ON INCREASED COCOA PROCESSING IN PRODUCING COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO PROVE USEFUL. KISSINGER

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